

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /060 W

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R 030642Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3728

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF US FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 7972

1. ARTICLE QUOTED IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL PLAY IN MAY 3 BANGKOK POST AND NATION AND SERVES TO FURTHER UNDERCUT OUR JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAY 5. WHEREAS THE WASHINGTON DISPATCH CITES A WITHDRAWAL OF 9,000 US TROOPS, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI IS QUOTED IN THE MAY 3 NATION AS STATING 11,500 US SERVICEMEN WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY THE END OF JUNE. THESE INACCURATE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON AND BANGKOK CAN ONLY LEAD TO DISAPPOINTMENT FOLLOWING THE MAY 5 ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. EQUALLY SERIOUS IS THE REUTERS REPORT QUOTING UNNAMED OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT THE RTG HAS NOT DEMANDED A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES. THERE IS NO Surer WAY TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL UTILITATUM FROM THE RTG FOR A SWIFT AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL THAN TO INSPIRE PRESS REPORTS OF THIS NATURE. WE HOPE THAT GREATER CAUTION WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING FORCE REDUCTIONS. THIS STATEMENT HAS ALREADY BROUGHT A PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION FROM CHATCHAI THAT ALL AMERICAN FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

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MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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